



# RADIUS CHURCH

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## BAPTISM INFORMATION PACKET

*I Have  
Decided!*



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Congratulations!

We're thrilled that you're investigating this important aspect of faith!

Baptism is a celebration of your relationship with Jesus. It is an opportunity to "identify" yourself as someone who has decided to follow Jesus. By being baptized, you are announcing that you are choosing to leave your former way of doing life on your own and entering into a new life with God. The practice of baptism is symbolic of this choice. As you enter the water and are immersed it is a symbol of dying to the old way of life and then coming out of the water, being raised to new life! By getting baptized, you are not declaring that you are perfect, or have it all figured out. In fact, you're saying almost the opposite. You are saying by this act, that because you have chosen to enter into a new life with Him, He will rescue you from the destructiveness of sin and brokenness and will begin the process of transforming you into the person He created you to be.

In addition, together with others who have decided to follow Jesus, we begin to experience what it means to function as a community. In other words, we begin to relate with one another in new and life-giving ways. Your baptism, therefore, is a visible symbol of your "initiation" into God's family, where we all stand on equal footing as the family of God.

So this is a very special event. Whether you are a new follower of Jesus, or a veteran of the faith, your baptism should be a joyful, memorable experience. It represents a significant step in your relationship with God and with other believers, and it constitutes a strong statement to the world concerning who Jesus is to you and who you are to Him.

So we encourage you to look forward with eager anticipation to our next baptism service. Invite friends and family to share in it with you. If you know friends or family who do not yet know Christ, take a step of faith and invite them along. God often uses the stories of people like you to draw others to himself.

Together we put Jesus at the center,

Pastor Aaron & Radius Church



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## How to Prepare for Your Baptism

### What to Wear/How to Dress:

We encourage modest dress and apparel when being baptized.

If you register in advance we will provide you with a shirt to be baptized in.

Men: shorts, shoes, t-shirt

Women: shoes, shorts & t-shirt (with swimwear underneath).

### Be Prepared:

Be sure to bring a towel and a change of clothes, as there will be a time to hang out and celebrate together afterwards.

### Bring a Friend:

Baptism can be used as a great tool to invite a spiritually seeking friend or family member. They may not be willing to come to church at this juncture of their process, but they are often more than willing to attend a significant moment in your life.

### Take in the Moment:

This is a significant step in your spiritual journey. Enjoy it as you reflect upon God's goodness in your life!

Please read over the Baptism FAQs thoroughly for more information or other questions you might have regarding baptism.



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## Baptism FAQs

What is the meaning of baptism? — It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again." — 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." — Colossians 2:12

It illustrates my new life as a follower of Jesus.

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" — 2 Corinthians 5:17

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a new life!"  
— Romans 6:4

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." — Ephesians 2:8,9

Why be baptized by immersion? — Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." — Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." — Acts 8:38-39  
— The Greek word baptize means "to immerse or dip under water".  
— It is best symbolized by a burial and resurrection!



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## Baptism FAQs (continued)

Who should be baptized? — Every person who has believed in Christ.

"Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized..." — Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized..." — Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." — Acts 8:12

When are we to be baptized?

As soon as you decide to follow Jesus! — ideally, baptism is the best first step for new believers.

"Many of them believed... were baptized... that day" — Acts 2:41

At Radius we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Generally, we begin offering baptism to those in 4th grade or above and/or 9yrs of age.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. At Radius, we have a special celebration called "Child Dedication" for this purpose. In a "child dedication", parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his/her own personal decision to follow Jesus.

What if I was baptized as an infant? Can I be baptized again?

At Radius we encourage you to identify yourself as a follower of Jesus through baptism. If your first baptism occurred as a decision by someone else (i.e. your parents decided to have you baptized as an infant), then we would encourage you to be baptized again of your own accord. This decision does not devalue your prior family experience, but simply reflects your desire to follow Jesus and be identified as one of his beloved sons/daughters.

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member fully understands the meaning of baptism and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation and to reconnect with God, we encourage families to be baptized together. It is a wonderful expression of a family's commitment to Jesus and to journey together in faith!



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## Baptism FAQs (continued)

Will I have to say anything in public?

No. Although we would love to use your story (as written in your registration packet) in various ways (website, during a worship service, blog site) to brag on God's goodness through you, your story will not be read at the baptism service.

At the time of baptism, together with the others, you will wait surrounded by your family & friends, and when it is your turn, the pastor or small group leader will baptize you and say "in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be baptized" — and slowly lower you just under the surface of the water. Of course he/she will then lift you out of the water as well! — Our survival rate is 100% ;)

You can then leave the baptismal, dry off, change and support the others being baptized.



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## Registration Form

This baptism registration needs to be completed by anyone desiring to be baptized. You can turn your registration in-person or online.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you been attending Radius Church?
2. Who invited you to Radius (i.e., friend, co-worker, family, etc.)?
3. Where would you describe yourself spiritually when you first started attending Radius:  
 Not Yet Following Jesus     New Believer     Somewhat Committed     Committed
4. Who has been a major influence in your life to become a follow of Jesus?
5. Are you currently in a Small Group? If yes, what type?
6. Are you currently serving on the Dream Team?
7. Have you completed the Growth Track?
8. What has motivated you to get baptized?

(Note: Question's 5-7 are not requirements for baptism)

